

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 - 43 cancelled.

44. (currently amended) A safe comprising:

a housing;

a door moveably mounted to the housing;

an electronic lock including a lock control circuit for selectively opening or locking the door; and

a programmable control unit operatively associated with the electronic lock for monitoring activities performed with the safe, the control unit comprising a communication interface for communication on an external network, the control unit automatically transmitting information associated with the monitored activities to a user via the external network responsive to select changes in status of the monitored activities.

45. (previously presented) The safe of claim 44 wherein the monitored

activities comprise transactions performed with the electronic lock.

46. (previously presented) The safe of claim 44 wherein the electronic lock

comprises a duress sensor and the control unit transmits indication of a duress condition determined by the duress sensor.

47. (previously presented) The safe of claim 44 wherein the control unit
2 transmits information associated with the monitored activities to a user via the external network
with an email notification.

48. (previously presented) The safe of claim 44 wherein the control unit
2 monitors transactions with the electronic lock over a period of time and records information
related to said transactions that identifies the type of transaction performed through the electronic
4 lock, and the recorded information is transmitted over the communication interface.

49. (previously presented) The safe of claim 48 wherein the control unit stores
2 an audit trail of monitored transactions including security information associated with each
monitored transaction.

50. (previously presented) The safe of claim 44 wherein the control unit
2 comprises a programmed computer using a graphical user interface based operating system.

51. (previously presented) The safe of claim 44 wherein the communication
2 interface comprises a modem.

52. (previously presented) The safe of claim 44 further comprising a video
2 capture device operatively associated with the control unit for monitoring an external area
proximate the safe, wherein the monitored activities comprise video information recorded by the
4 control unit.

53. (currently amended) An apparatus for monitoring a safe comprising:
2 an electronic lock for controlling a safe and through which a plurality of different
types of transactions can be performed; and
4 a programmable control unit coupled to said electronic lock for controlling said
electronic lock and recording security information related to the different types of transactions,
6 the control unit comprising a communication interface for communication on an external
network, the control unit automatically transmitting recorded security information to a user via
8 the external network responsive to performance of select ones of the transactions.

54. (previously presented) The apparatus for monitoring a safe of claim 53
2 wherein the recorded security information comprise transactions performed with the electronic
lock.

55. (previously presented) The apparatus for monitoring a safe of claim 53
2 wherein the electronic lock comprises a duress sensor and the control unit transmits indication of
a duress condition determined by the duress sensor.

56. (previously presented) The apparatus for monitoring a safe of claim 53
2 wherein the control unit transmits recorded security information to a user via the external
network with an email notification.

57. (previously presented) The apparatus for monitoring a safe of claim 53
2 wherein the control unit monitors transactions with the electronic lock over a period of time and
records security information related to said transactions that identifies the type of transaction
4 performed through the electronic lock, and the recorded information is transmitted over the
communication interface.

58. (previously presented) The apparatus for monitoring a safe of claim 57
2 wherein the control unit stores an audit trail of monitored transactions including security
information associated with each monitored transaction.

59. (previously presented) The apparatus for monitoring a safe of claim 53
2 wherein the control unit comprises a programmed computer using a graphical user interface
based operating system.

60. (previously presented) The apparatus for monitoring a safe of claim 53
2 wherein the communication interface comprises a modem.

61. (previously presented) The apparatus for monitoring a safe of claim 53
2 further comprising a video capture device operatively associated with the control unit for
monitoring an external area proximate the safe, wherein the security information comprise video
4 information recorded by the control unit.

62. (previously presented) The apparatus for monitoring a safe of claim 53
2 wherein the control unit selectively marks the recorded security information in response to the
occurrence of at least one specific transaction.